

178

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

B E L F A S T

District Hospital for the Insane

OF THE

COUNTIES OF ANTRIM AND DOWN, AND THE COUNTY
OF THE TOWN OF CARRICKFERGUS,

FROM THE 1ST APRIL, 1854, TO THE 31ST MARCH, 1855.

Ordered by the Governors to be Printed.

ESTABLISHED 1829.

BELFAST:

PRINTED AT THE NORTHERN WHIG OFFICE,
CALENDER-STREET.

1855.

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GOVERNORS

OF THE

Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,


APPOINTED BY
THE LORD LIEUTENANT AND PRIVY COUNCIL OF IRELAND,
Under the Provisions of 1 and 2 George IV., Cap. 33.

| No. | NAME. | RESIDENCE. | DATE OF APPOINTMENT. |
|-----|--|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 | Marquis of Donegall, | Ormeau, Belfast, | March, 1829. |
| 2 | Mayor of Belfast, for the time being, | Belfast, | March, " |
| 3 | Rev. Thomas Hincks, A.M., .. | Derrykeighan Rectory, Dervock, | March, " |
| 4 | Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., D.L., .. | Belvoir Park, Belfast | June 28, " |
| 5 | William M'Cance, J.P., | Suffolk, Belfast, | Jan. 4, 1836. |
| 6 | Robert Jas. Tennent, J.P., D.L., | Belfast, | Jan. 4, " |
| 7 | John Sinclair, Esq., | Malone, Belfast, | Oct. 28, " |
| 8 | Edward Bruce, J.P., | Belfast, | Oct. 28, " |
| 9 | Right Rev. Bishop Denvir, .. | Do., | Oct. 28, " |
| 10 | Rev. John Edgar, D.D., | Do., | Oct. 28, " |
| 11 | Rev. H. Montgomery, LL.D., .. | Glebe House, Dunmurry, .. | Oct. 28, " |
| 12 | Very Rev. Dean Stannus, | Lisburn, | April 4, 1842. |
| 13 | Rev. H. Cooke, D.D., LL.D., .. | Belfast, | April 4, " |
| 14 | John M'Neile, J.P., D.L., | Parkmount, Belfast, | April 4, " |
| 15 | R. B. Blakiston Houston, J.P., D.L., | Orangefield, Belfast, | April 4, " |
| 16 | Rev. J. S. B. Monsell, A.M., .. | Do., | July 13, " |
| 17 | Conway B. Grimshaw, Esq., .. | Linfield, Belfast, | Oct. 8, 1846. |
| 18 | John Clarke, J.P., | Belfast, | Sept. 13, 1847. |
| 19 | Marquis of Downshire, | The Castle, Hillsborough, .. | Nov. 16, " |
| 20 | Robert Gordon, J.P., D.L., .. | Florida Manor, Killinchy, .. | Nov. 16, " |
| 21 | Robert Batt, J.P., D.L., | Purdysburn, Belfast, | Nov. 16, " |
| 22 | John Sharman Crawford, J.P., .. | Crawfordsburn, Holywood, .. | Nov. 16, " |
| 23 | Lord Bishop of Down & Connor } & Dromore, for the time being, } | The Palace, Holywood, | April 9, 1850. |
| 24 | William Dunville, Esq., | Richmond Lodge, Holywood, .. | May 22, 1851. |
| 25 | Rev. T. F. Miller, | The Vicarage, Belfast | Dec. 8, " |
| | Inspectors of Hospitals for the } Insane, for the time being, } | Dublin Castle, | April 26, 1852. |
| 26 | Adam J. Macrory, Esq., | Duncairn, Belfast, | June 15, " |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Resident Physician, | ROBERT STEWART, M.D. |
| Visiting Physician, | HENRY M'CORMAC, M.D. |
| Surgeon, | J. S. MULHOLLAND, M.D. |

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STATED MEETINGS OF GOVERNORS ARE HELD ON THE FIRST MONDAY  
OF EACH MONTH, AT ONE O'CLOCK, P.M.



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# TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Belfast District Hospital for the Insane, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1855.

Table I.—General Statement of the Year's Admissions, &c.

|                                                                           | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males.     | Females. | Total.      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|------------|----------|-------------|
| In House, 1st April, 1854,                                                | ...    | ...      | ...    | 146        | 130      | 276         |
| Admitted since, New Cases,                                                | 31     | 57       | 88     |            |          |             |
| Do. Relapses,                                                             | 6      | 2        | 8      |            |          |             |
|                                                                           | —      | —        | —      | 37         | 59       | 96          |
|                                                                           |        |          |        | —          | —        | —           |
| Total under treatment during the year,                                    | ...    | ...      | ...    | 183        | 189      | 372         |
| Discharged Recovered, ...                                                 | 11     | 25       | 36     |            |          |             |
| Do. Relieved, ...                                                         | 11     | 8        | 19     |            |          |             |
| Escaped, ...                                                              | 2      | 0        | 2      |            |          |             |
| Died, ...                                                                 | 18     | 21       | 39     |            |          |             |
|                                                                           | —      | —        | —      | 42         | 54       | 96          |
|                                                                           |        |          |        | —          | —        | —           |
| Leaving in the House, 31st March, 1855,                                   |        |          | ...    | 141        | 135      | 276         |
| The total Admissions more than last year,                                 |        |          |        | 3          | 16       | 19          |
| Daily Average Number of Patients during the year,                         |        |          | ...    |            |          | 266.48      |
| Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1854,                                 |        |          | ...    |            |          | 279.11      |
| Average Annual Expense of each Patient this year, including every charge, | ...    | ...      | ...    | } £18 5 4½ |          |             |
| Do. for the year ending 31st March, 1854,                                 | ...    | ...      | ...    |            |          |             |
| Being an increase of each Patient this year of                            |        |          | ...    |            |          | 3 12 10     |
| Total Expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1855,                   |        |          |        |            |          | £4,868 0 10 |
| Dangerous Lunatics admitted during the year, viz. :—                      |        |          |        |            |          |             |
|                                                                           | Males. | Females. | Total. |            |          |             |
| From Antrim Gaol, ...                                                     | 1      | 6        | 7      |            |          |             |
| From Down Gaol, ...                                                       | 5      | 7        | 12     |            |          |             |
|                                                                           | —      | —        | —      | 6          | 13       | 19          |
| Produce of Farm and Garden, ...                                           | ...    | ...      | ...    |            |          | £330 9 6    |
| Deduct Farm and Garden Expenses, ...                                      | ...    | ...      | ...    |            |          | 51 15 0     |
|                                                                           |        |          |        |            |          | £278 14 6   |

Table II.—Ages of the 96 Patients admitted during the Year.

|                      |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Under 20 years,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 1        | 3      |
| From 20 to 30 years, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11     | 16       | 27     |
| “ 30 to 40 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14     | 21       | 35     |
| “ 40 to 50 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 16       | 23     |
| “ 50 to 60 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 4        | 5      |
| “ 60 to 70 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| “ 70 to 80 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| TOTALS,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |

Table III.—Alleged Causes of Insanity in the 96 Cases admitted during the Year.

|                                 |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Bodily Ailments,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 6        | 12     |
| Disappointed Love,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 4        | 4      |
| Fear of Want,                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Fright,                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 2        | 3      |
| Grief, Disappointment, Anxiety, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 8        | 10     |
| Intemperance,                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8      | 3        | 11     |
| Puerperal Condition,            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 6        | 6      |
| Religious Excitement,           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 3        | 5      |
| Excessive Study,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| Unknown or Hereditary,          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 6        | 9      |
| Totally Unknown,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12     | 21       | 33     |
| TOTALS,                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |

Table IV.—Forms of Disease in the 96 Cases Admitted during the Year.

|              |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Dementia,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 3        | 7      |
| Mania,       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22     | 26       | 48     |
| Melancholia, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11     | 25       | 36     |
| Monomania,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 5        | 5      |
| TOTALS, ...  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |

Table V.—Religion of the 96 Cases Admitted during the Year.

|                                            |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Established Church of England and Ireland, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12     | 17       | 29     |
| Presbyterians and Protestant Dissenters,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15     | 25       | 40     |
| Roman Catholics                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 17       | 27     |
| TOTALS, ...                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |



Table VI.—Social Condition of the 96 Cases admitted during the Year.

|                      |     |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Married,             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14     | 26       | 40     |
| Single,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22     | 26       | 48     |
| Widowers and Widows, |     |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 7        | 8      |
| TOTALS,              |     |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |

Table VII.—Occupation of the 96 Cases admitted during the Year.

|                                        |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Blacksmith, ...                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Boot and Shoemaker,                    |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Carter, ...                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Clerks, ...                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| Dressmakers,                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 5        | 5      |
| Farmers and Farmers' Wives,            |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 2        | 5      |
| Flowerers and Sewers,                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 12       | 12     |
| Governess, ...                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| Housekeepers,                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 9        | 9      |
| House-servants,                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 6        | 8      |
| Labourers, ...                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13     | 0        | 13     |
| Licentiate of the Presbyterian Church, |     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Milliners, ...                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| Millworkers,...                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 4        | 4      |
| Nailer, ...                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Paupers, ...                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| Pensioner, ...                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Schoolmasters,                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| Shopwomen,                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| Soldier, ...                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Spinner, ...                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| Stone Mason,                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Tailor, ...                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Weavers, ...                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 1        | 5      |
| Without any Occupation,                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 12       | 14     |
| TOTALS,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |

Table VIII.—Degree of Education in the 96 Cases admitted during the Year.

|                     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Can Read and Write, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21     | 34       | 55     |
| Can Read only,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 18       | 25     |
| Totally Uneducated, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 6        | 12     |
| Well Educated,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 1        | 4      |
|                     |     |     |     |     | —      | —        | —      |
| TOTALS,...          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |

Table IX.—Ages of the 36 Patients discharged Recovered during the Year.

|                      |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Under 20 years,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| From 20 to 30 years, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 3        | 5      |
| “ 30 to 40 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 11       | 15     |
| “ 40 to 50 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 5        | 7      |
| “ 50 to 60 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 2        | 4      |
| “ 60 to 70 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| “ 70 to 80 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| TOTALS,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11     | 25       | 36     |

Table X.—Shewing the Period of Time the 36 Patients discharged Recovered were under Treatment.

|                     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Under 3 months,     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 9        | 12     |
| From 3 to 6 months, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 6        | 10     |
| “ 6 to 12 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 5        | 7      |
| “ 1 to 2 years,     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| “ 2 to 5 “          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 4        | 5      |
| TOTALS,             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11     | 25       | 36     |

Table XI.—Causes of the 39 Deaths which occurred during the Year.

|                           |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Cerebral Congestion,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| Cholera,                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9      | 8        | 17     |
| Chronic Bowel Affections, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 1        | 4      |
| Dropsical Disease,        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Epilepsy,                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| General Debility,         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 6        | 7      |
| Maniacal Exhaustion,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 2        | 4      |
| Pulmonary Consumption,    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| Suddenly, during a fit,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| TOTALS,...                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18     | 21       | 39     |

Table XII.—Ages of the 39 Patients who Died during the Year.

|                      |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| From 20 to 30 years, | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 2        | 7      |
| “ 30 to 40 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 7        | 13     |
| “ 40 to 50 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 4        | 7      |
| “ 50 to 60 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 6        | 10     |
| “ 60 to 70 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| TOTALS,...           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18     | 21       | 39     |

Table XIII.—Shewing the Duration of Disease in the 96 Patients discharged Recovered and Relieved, and who Died during the Year.

| DURATION OF DISEASE. | RECOVERED AND RELIEVED. |          |        | DIED.  |          |        |
|----------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
|                      | Males.                  | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
| Under 3 months, ...  | 4                       | 10       | 14     | 3      | 3        | 6      |
| From 3 to 6 months,  | 5                       | 10       | 15     | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| “ 6 to 12 “          | 4                       | 5        | 9      | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| “ 1 to 2 years,      | 2                       | 4        | 6      | 1      | 2        | 3      |
| “ 2 to 5 “           | 6                       | 4        | 10     | 3      | 4        | 7      |
| “ 5 to 10 “          | 1                       | 0        | 1      | 2      | 4        | 6      |
| “ 10 to 20 “         | 2                       | 0        | 2      | 6      | 4        | 10     |
| “ 20 to 25 “         | 0                       | 0        | 0      | 2      | 1        | 3      |
| TOTALS, ...          | 24                      | 33       | 57     | 18     | 21       | 39     |

#### DANGEROUS LUNATICS.

An unusually large number of inmates of this class was received during the year—nineteen in all, being thirteen more than last year. The largest proportion of the above (twelve) was from County Down, and the remainder (seven) from County Antrim Gaols, respectively. At the present time, there are three waiting for admission from the latter, as vacancies arise; and, according to a return recently received from the former, so many as twenty-one are similarly circumstanced. How it occurs that the committals to Down Gaol of “dangerous lunatics” are always so comparatively numerous cannot be stated.

#### CRIMINAL LUNATICS.

But one inmate (a male) of the class legally denominated “Criminal Lunatics” is now on the books, being sent in from Down Gaol, in 1853, after trial at Assizes, for larceny, and acquitted of that offence on the ground of insanity. According to law, however, this patient should be a charge upon the Central Asylum, at Dundrum, where “any person acquitted on the ground of insanity” is directed to be placed by the Act 8 & 9 Vict., c. 107, which enacts, “that

whenever and so soon as the said Central Asylum shall be erected, and fit for the reception of criminal lunatics, it shall be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, to order and direct that all criminal lunatics then in custody in any Lunatic Asylum or Gaol, or who shall thereafter be in custody, shall be removed without delay to such Central Asylum, and shall be kept therein so long as such criminal lunatics, respectively, shall be detained in custody."

#### CHOLERA.

In October last the establishment was, unfortunately, visited by a very severe invasion of epidemic Cholera. The first case appeared on the male side, on the first of that month, and proved fatal on the third day. The sufferer, aged fifty-six, had been an inmate for the lengthened period of eighteen years, and generally enjoyed good health, until during the last year or two, when his strength began to decline. He was a highly-educated person, and a graduate of Trinity College, with the view, originally, of entering into Holy Orders. Throughout his residence he was always incoherent, but of an exceedingly docile and mild disposition; so much so as to be an object of great esteem in the whole establishment, all within its walls sincerely mourning his removal. One of his eccentric notions was, that the National Debt had an embodiment in his person; and another, that he filled the distinguished post of Provost of Trinity College.

The second case, aged twenty-four, and an inmate between three and four years, was amongst the males, also, but in a different wing entirely from the first, its course with him being very rapid, the attack occurring on the 3rd of October, at 10, A.M., and proving fatal in five hours. He was of a strong and robust constitution, but of a remarkably ravenous and depraved appetite; for, if not closely



watched, he would devour with greediness, even after the heartiest meal, any offal or garbage that might fall in his way. The third fatal case in order, another male, an inmate two years, nearly, and of sound constitution hitherto, occurred on the 4th, at 5, P.M., the patient having been seized with violent cramps, and other unmistakable symptoms, on the morning of the 3d. The deceased belonged to the same ward as the first patient attacked, and closely attended upon him, being very solicitous on his behalf, and refusing, in fact, to forego his entirely voluntary attentions, which were most kind and untiring. He, also, like the second case, as above referred to, was the subject of a depraved and insatiable appetite, which, with uncleanly personal habits, was, in fact, the main feature of his insanity, his conversation being rational, and his *physique* of a high order of development. The first case on the female side happened on the 4th of October, and proved fatal on the 6th. This woman had been an inmate but three months, and, from the period of her admission, had been in a generally debilitated condition, being quite enfeebled in both her bodily and mental functions. It is needless further to particularise individual cases: suffice it to say, that seventeen deaths in all occurred from this malignant epidemic—nine males and eight females, out of a total number attacked of thirty-two. Excepting this outbreak of Cholera, the general health of the establishment during the year, both previously and afterwards, was of the usual satisfactory kind.

#### DEATHS.

The total number of Deaths, from all causes, for the year, was thirty-nine—eighteen males and twenty-one females. Leaving out those caused by cholera, as already referred to, the number would have been but twenty-two, which, as compared with last year's mortality—twenty-five—would rather have been below than above the usual average. Seven of the

twenty-two ordinary casualties arose from general debility, characterised by no very prominent symptom of actual disease, but a gradual wasting of the mental and physical powers, so usual amongst a certain class of patients, in such establishments; four from maniacal exhaustion, four from chronic bowel affections, two from epilepsy, two from pulmonary disease, one suddenly in a fit, one of dropsical disease, and one of cerebral congestion. With reference to the death of the female patient who died suddenly, she having been previously in good health, the facts were immediately reported to the Coroner of the District, who, however, in the exercise of the discretionary powers vested in him by law, considered it quite unnecessary to hold an inquest, the death arising evidently from natural causes.

#### SUICIDAL AND HOMICIDAL CASES—RESTRAINT.

Of the males admitted during the year, with a suicidal propensity, one attempted to strangle himself before admission, and had all but accomplished his purpose; one threatened to cut his throat, and one to drown himself.

The number of homicidal cases of males, was five—one each, respectively, towards mother, wife, and brother; and two towards others, generally.

The female suicidally-disposed cases amounted to fourteen. Two made actual attempts to cut their throats, inflicting upon themselves wounds of more or less severity; one each, respectively, attempted strangulation, drowning, and precipitation from a window. Seven threatened suicide in various ways. One took a large dose of turpentine with a suicidal intent, and one importunately requested her sister to bleed her to death.

Those homicidally disposed, of the female admissions of the year, were nine in number—one each towards mother, and husband, respectively; four towards their children, and three towards others, generally.



A single attempt only was made in the House, during the year, at self-destruction, and this on the part of one of the above-enumerated male suicidals, who suddenly seized a razor, whilst the other patients were shaving, and, in a moment of time, inflicted a deep gash in his throat, of fully three inches in length, completely dividing the wind-pipe, but, happily, not injuring any blood-vessel of consequence. The wound was immediately sutured (to prevent which, however, he made the strongest resistance), and, ultimately, healed satisfactorily, though proving troublesome for a lengthened period.

This, it may be remarked, is one of the many exceptional cases in which mechanical restraint becomes absolutely indispensable, as it was on the present occasion; and not to have had recourse to which would have been a most culpable dereliction of duty, however adverse to the, no doubt, honest convictions of those who support the utopian idea, that "restraint is never necessary."

#### ACCOMMODATION.

The House, during the year, continued throughout in a very over-crowded state, a cause which, no doubt, amongst others, had a large share as a predisposing one, in the visitation of cholera. In last year's Report, the continuance of the then crowded state of the dormitories, &c., was specially referred to, as being fraught with much danger; but, owing to the extreme pressure from without, for admission, it was found impossible to keep the numbers within those limits, considered at all safe, in a sanitary point of view. The constant, but unavoidable, presence, too, of tradesmen of all descriptions, and the repeated changes which had to be made in the disposition of temporary arrangements, to carry on the internal details of the Institution, were unceasing causes of the greatest embarrassment, disquietude, and inconvenience, in the working of the whole establishment.

## NEW BUILDINGS.

For the reasons stated above the possession of the new buildings would indeed be a desideratum ; but, to the present time, they are not ready for the accommodation of patients. The Board of Works, however, having taken “adverse possession” of them from the contractor, are now engaged in finishing off all matters requisite for their occupation, so that there is every hope, that, in the course of a short time, they will be enabled to be gotten into readiness for the due reception of patients.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAPLAINS, AND INVESTIGATION IN  
CONNEXION THEREWITH.

The proceedings of the Governors, since the last Annual Report was printed, in reference to the still unsettled question of the appointment of Chaplains, together with an abstract of the investigation which took place, in connexion with those appointments, into certain charges brought against the management of the Institution, will be found embraced in this Report, as directed by the Board.

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The Resident Physician has only now to tender his warm thanks to the Governors, for their able co-operation in the conduct of the Institution, so as best to advance its important interests. It is needless for him to state how efficiently Dr. M'Cormac, and how devotedly the officials, generally, of the Establishment fulfilled the respective duties devolving upon them, in their several departments, during the late very trying year, when so many causes were in active operation to make those duties unusually arduous, and not without much personal risk, especially when cholera prevailed.

R. STEWART, M.D.,

RESIDENT PHYSICIAN.

*Belfast District Hospital for the Insane,*

*March 31, 1855.*

## PROCEEDINGS, &c.

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS, held in the Asylum, on Monday,  
May 1st, 1854.

### PRESENT :

R. B. BLAKISTON HOUSTON, Esq., D.L., in the Chair ;

|                                  |                   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| J. SHARMAN CRAWFORD, Esq., J.P., | BISHOP DENVIR,    |
| JOHN SINCLAIRE, Esq.,            | W. DUNVILLE, Esq. |

The two Physicians also present.

Read—Letters from the Rev. Messrs. M'Cullagh, Fegan, and Carroll, dated 12th ultimo, requiring the Governors to draw cheques in their favour, to the amount of the salaries now claimed by each, as fixed by the Government.

Ordered—That the above letters be taken into consideration next meeting, and that the Governors be specially summoned for that purpose.—Adjourned.

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Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday,  
June 5th, 1854.

### PRESENT :

The Mayor of Belfast (F. H. LEWIS, Esq.) in the Chair ;

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| JOHN SINCLAIRE, Esq.,         | REV. DR. MONTGOMERY, |
| C. B. GRIMSHAW, Esq.,         | BISHOP DENVIR,       |
| JOHN S. CRAWFORD, Esq., J.P., | REV. DR. EDGAR.      |
| JOHN CLARKE, Esq., J.P.,      |                      |

The Two Physicians also present.

The letters of the Rev. Messrs. M'Cullagh, Fegan, and Carroll, as before the meeting last Board, having been now specially considered, it was

*Resolved*—I. “ That, perceiving by the Dublin newspapers that the Attorney-General had moved, in the Court of Queen's Bench, for a mandamus on the part of the



above-named gentlemen, without waiting for the reply of the Board to their respective communications, the Board think it unnecessary to make any reply, pending the issue of said application."

II. "That each of the above Rev. Gentlemen be made acquainted with the Resolution now adopted by the Board."

*Resolved*—"That a Committee, consisting of the Mayor (F. H. Lewis, Esq.), Mr. Clarke, and Mr. Grimshaw, be appointed to make arrangements, with the Agent of the Belfast Branch of the Bank of Ireland, to place to the credit of the Governors, in that Bank, as a separate fund, the sum of 203*l.* 1*s.* 7*d.*, as issued by the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council of Ireland, 'for the payment of Chaplains' salaries, from the dates of their respective appointments till the 30th June instant;' and that the balance of the sum now issued for the current quarter—viz., 976*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*—be lodged in the Belfast Banking Company, as usual."—  
Adjourned.

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Special Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Tuesday, June 13th, 1854.

PRESENT :

Sir ROBERT BATESON, Bart., in the Chair ;

JOHN SINCLAIRE, ESQ.,  
C. B. GRIMSHAW, ESQ.,  
REV. DR. MONTGOMERY,

JOHN S. CRAWFORD, ESQ.,  
JOHN CLARKE, ESQ.,  
BISHOP DENVIR.

Dr. Stewart, the Resident Physician, also present.

The Board having been specially summoned to take into consideration a notice served personally on the Resident Physician, on the 10th instant, dated "Queen's Bench, June 9th, 1854," and signed "Wm. Kemmis, Crown Solicitor," the same being accompanied by copies of three Writs of Mandamus, issued by the Court against the Governors, "commanding them to pay to the Rev. John Carroll, the Rev. Patrick J. Fegan, and the Rev. William M'Cullagh,

their salaries, as fixed by an Order of the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council, as the Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Presbyterian Chaplains, respectively, of the Asylum," unless cause to the contrary were shewn, within six days after service had been made of the notice and writs in question; and, the above documents having been now duly read,

It was moved by John S. Crawford, Esq., seconded by John Clarke, Esq., and

*Resolved*—I. "That the Governors do shew cause against making absolute the Conditional Order obtained by the Rev. Mr. Carroll, through the Attorney-General; and that Doctor Stewart be instructed to accede to the proposal, made by the Crown Solicitor's notice, of allowing the decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, in Mr. Carroll's case, to govern the other two cases."

II. "That Messrs. Davison & Torrens be employed as Solicitors of this Board, to shew cause against the Conditional Order, and have the legal case brought before the Court for decision; and that John Sharman Crawford, Esq., and the Mayor (F. H. Lewis, Esq.) be requested to instruct the Solicitors in the matter."—Adjourned.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, July 3d, 1854.

PRESENT :

WILLIAM DUNVILLE, Esq., in the Chair;

JOHN SINCLAIRE, Esq.,

JOHN S. CRAWFORD, Esq., J.P.

CONWAY B. GRIMSHAW, Esq.,

The Resident and Visiting Physicians also present.

Reported—That, agreeably to the minute of the last Board, instructions had been given to Messrs. Davison & Torrens, Solicitors, on the subject of shewing cause against the Conditional Order, "commanding the payment of salaries to the Chaplains appointed by the Lord Lieutenant."

Reported—That the sum of two hundred and three

pounds, one shilling, and seven pence, had been duly lodged in the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, to the credit of the Governors, as directed last month.

Ordered—That the proceedings of the Board, since 31st March last, in connexion with the appointment of “Chaplains” by Government, be printed, and copies thereof transmitted to the Secretaries of the several Grand Juries of the district, to lay before those bodies at the ensuing Summer Assizes, together with a printed Annual Report for the year ended March 31, 1854.—Adjourned.

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, August 7th, 1854.

PRESENT :

A. J. MACRORY, Esq., in the Chair ;

JOHN SINCLAIRE, Esq.,

JOHN S. CRAWFORD, Esq., J.P.,

WILLIAM DUNVILLE, Esq.,

RIGHT REV. DR. DENVIR,

JOHN CLARKE, Esq., J.P.

The two Physicians also present.

Read—The following official communications, viz. :—

I. From John Coates, Esq., Secretary to County Antrim Grand Jury, dated 2d instant, stating that the Grand Jury, at the recent Summer Assizes, “had declined, as the Grand Jury at Spring Assizes had done, to make any presentment for the salaries of Chaplains.”

II. From J. Larmour, Esq., Secretary to the Grand Jury of the County of the Town of Carrickfergus, dated 3d instant, stating “that the sum required by the Treasury, as that County’s proportion of the Chaplains’ salaries, was not put on the levy, and that a note had been entered upon the margin of the Presentment Book, as follows—viz., ‘Refuse to present.’”

III. From Robert Gordon, Esq., Secretary to the Grand Jury of the County Down, dated 4th instant, enclosing a copy of a report of the late Grand Jury, to the effect, “that,



pending a writ of mandamus issued against the Governors, they declined making any presentment for Chaplains, and expressing their cordial approval of the conduct of the Governors, for the zealous manner in which they had endeavoured to maintain the rights of those taxed for the support of the Institution."

IV. From the Clerk of the Council, Dublin Castle, dated 31st ultimo, notifying that an Order in Council had been made, on the 29th ultimo, for an issue to the Governors of the sum of £1,233 13s. 7d., for the quarter to end on the 30th September, 1854; and, further, that, in this issue, "provision had been made for the sums necessary for the payment of the salaries of the several Chaplains;" and thereupon it was now

Ordered—That the Clerk of the Council be requested to inform this Board what portion of the above sum of £1,233 13s. 7d. was for "Chaplains' Salaries."

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Board of Governors held in the Asylum, on Monday, September 4th, 1854.

PRESENT :

JOHN CLARKE, Esq., J.P., in the Chair;

|                       |  |                      |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| JOHN SINCLAIRE, Esq., |  | A. J. MACRORY, Esq., |
| C. B. GRIMSHAW, Esq., |  | W. DUNVILLE, Esq.    |

The two Physicians also present.

Read—A letter, dated 2d instant, in reply to a letter of the 7th ultimo, requesting that the sum added by the Privy Council, for "Chaplains' Salaries," to the Board's estimate, would be specified, and stating, "that the Governors could have no difficulty in ascertaining the amounts issued for the Chaplains, in any quarter, the salary of each being fixed at £50 per annum."

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Board of Governors held in the Asylum, on Monday, January 1st, 1855.

## PRESENT :

Rev. Dr. COOKE, in the Chair ;

JOHN SINCLAIRE, ESQ.,  
MAJOR CRAWFORD, J.P.,  
C. B. GRIMSHAW, ESQ.,  
JOHN CLARKE, ESQ., J.P.,

REV. DR. MONTGOMERY,  
REV. T. F. MILLER, VICAR,  
RIGHT REV. DR. DENVIR,  
A. J. MACRORY, ESQ.

The two Physicians also present.

Read—A letter from the Under-Secretary, dated 5th December, 1854, informing the Board that “the Lord Lieutenant had been pleased to appoint the Rev. George M'Grane to be Roman Catholic Chaplain to the Asylum, in the room of the Rev. Patrick C. Fegan, resigned.”

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, January 8th, 1855.

## PRESENT :

MAJOR CRAWFORD, J.P., in the Chair :

JOHN CLARKE, ESQ., J.P.,  
REV. DR. MONTGOMERY,

RIGHT REV. DR. DENVIR.

The Resident Physician also present.

Summonses having been duly issued to the Governors for this Special Meeting, the Board met to-day, accordingly, to consider a mandamus, served on the 4th instant, on the Resident Physician, requiring the Governors to pay to the Rev. John Carroll his salary as the Protestant Chaplain of the Institution ; or shew cause, by their Counsel, in the Court of Queen's Bench, on the 15th instant. The mandamus having been read and discussed, the meeting, with the exception of Dr. Denvir,

*Resolved*—“That, whilst the Board entirely disclaim any desire to offer a vexatious opposition to the expressed wishes of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, yet, retaining an unabated and increased conviction of the impolicy of the appointment of Chaplains, they deem it their conscientious and imperative duty to adopt the following resolution, viz. :

“That the mandamus having been laid before the Meeting, and the Board having been informed that their Counsel continue of opinion that the views of the Board are sustainable in law ; also, that Messrs. Davison & Torrens recommend the opinion of Mr. F. A. Fitzgerald, Q.C., to be taken, in conference with their present Counsel, before further proceedings, it was accordingly agreed that the mandamus be referred to Messrs. Davison & Torrens, with instructions to make a return thereto, if so advised by said Conference ; the Board being determined to resist the payment of Chaplains, if the law should still be considered by their Counsel to justify such course.

(Signed)

“JOHN S. CRAWFORD, Chairman.”

Board of Governors, held in the Asylum, on Monday, February 5th, 1855.

PRESENT :

Rev. Dr. COOKE, in the Chair ;

SIR ROBT. BATESON, BART., D.L.,  
JOHN SINCLAIRE, ESQ.,  
REV. DR. MONTGOMERY,  
C. B. GRIMSHAW, ESQ.,  
REV. T. F. MILLER, VICAR,

RICHARD B. BLAKISTON Hous-  
TON, ESQ., J.P., D.L.,  
W. DUNVILLE, ESQ.,  
JOHN CLARKE, ESQ., J.P.,  
REV. DR. EDGAR.

Read—The annexed copy of opinion of Counsel, with reference to the appointment of Chaplains, viz. :—

“ We have conferred, and carefully considered the case of the Governors of the Lunatic Asylum, and have arrived at the following opinion :—

I. “ The appointment of Chaplains to District Lunatic Asylums was not, in our opinion, in the contemplation of the Legislature in the Act of Parliament under which such Asylums are established.

II. “ But, if the Lord Lieutenant, by and with the advice of the Privy Council, has authority, under such Acts,



to make that appointment, we are of opinion, that, having regard to the Order in Council, in 1843, and especially the 13th Rule adopted by such order, that the alleged appointments of Chaplains, by the Lord Lieutenant and Lords Justices, are invalid.

III. "The Order in Privy Council, of the 7th November, 1853, did not, in our opinion, constitute a valid appointment of Chaplains, so as to enable those gentlemen to enforce payment of their salaries (as part of the expenses of the Institution, payable by the rate-payers) for the time previous to the annulling of the 13th Rule above referred to, under which the Governors of the Asylum were, in our opinion, justified in acting until the same was annulled in Council; and on this account, also, we are of opinion that the present mandamus ought to fail, and that a return ought to be made which would enable the Governors to put upon the records of the Court the grounds upon which they have acted.

IV. "This is our opinion, on the true legal construction of the Statutes; but it is right to say, that we consider those Statutes obscure in their phraseology, and difficult of construction, and that the questions in this case are novel, and yet undetermined by any authority.

"We are of opinion, that costs will follow the Judgment of Court in this case, and will be payable by the unsuccessful to the successful party.

*"Four Courts, 27th January, 1855.*

(Signed,)

"JOHN BROOKE.\*

"HENRY H. JOY.

"THOMAS O'HAGAN.

"MICHAEL HARRISON."

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\* Mr. Brooke, Q.C., was substituted for Mr. Fitzgerald, Q.C., whose professional engagements prevented his acting in the case.

The Board having considered the above opinion, the following Resolutions were put from the Chair, and carried, two of the Governors present voting against their adoption—viz., the Rev. T. F. Miller and the Rev. Dr. Edgar :—

*Resolved*—I. “That, after mature deliberation and anxious inquiry, we considered it our bounden duty to remonstrate, earnestly and respectfully, against the contemplated appointment of Chaplains to this Asylum, as a measure likely to prove injurious to its unfortunate inmates, by producing religious excitement and animosities, where perfect harmony had theretofore prevailed.

II. “That when our repeated protests, although sustained by the *unanimous* support of the Grand Juries of Antrim, Down, and Carrickfergus, entirely failed to influence the Irish Government, we endeavoured to shew our respect to the Lord Lieutenant by availing ourselves of the power vested in us by an Order in Council, of the year 1843, to admit three Reverend gentlemen, whom his Excellency had named, as Chaplains, to administer instruction and consolation to such inmates of their respective communions as the Resident Physician might deem fitted to engage in religious exercises.

III. “That we did not, and could not, however, with our views of public duty, pay over to them, *as Chaplains*, the annual salary allotted to them by the Lord Lieutenant.

IV. “That our experience, during the last twelve months, so far from proving the admission of the three Reverend gentlemen to have been salutary and comfortable, has shewn it to have been, in several ways, decidedly inexpedient and injurious ; and, consequently, although sincerely reluctant to oppose any desire of the Lord Lieutenant, we feel ourselves compelled, by an imperative sentiment of duty to the poor inmates of this Asylum, and to the public at large, to

direct, as we now do, our Solicitors, Messrs. Davison & Torrens, to make a suitable return to the mandamus recently issued by the Court of Queen's Bench, seeing that the legal position we contend for has been sanctioned by the concurrent opinion of four eminent Counsel, in deliberate consultation.

V. "That a statement of the proceedings in this case, since the last Assizes, be duly printed, and respectfully submitted, by deputation, to the Grand Juries of the Counties of Antrim and Down, and County of the Town of Carrickfergus, at the Assizes now approaching.

"Deputation to Antrim and Carrickfergus Grand Juries—John Clarke, Esq., and Rev. Dr. Montgomery.

"Deputation to Down Grand Jury—Sir R. Bateson, Bart., and Rev. Dr. Cooke.

(Signed)

"H. COOKE, Chairman."



## INVESTIGATION INTO CHARGES AGAINST THE CONDUCT OF THE INSTITUTION.

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As evidence, amongst several other proofs which could be given, of the pernicious effects of the systematic and authoritative admission of Ministers of Religion, during the last year, it is deemed proper to append the following results of an investigation, admittedly arising from the appointment of Chaplains.

At a Special Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Belfast District Lunatic Asylum, on Saturday, Dec. 2d, 1854—

### PRESENT :

Rev. Dr. COOKE, in the Chair.

REV. H. MONTGOMERY, LL.D.,

REV. JOHN EDGAR, D.D.,

MAJOR JOHN S. CRAWFORD, J.P.,

C. B. GRIMSHAW, ESQ.,

WILLIAM DUNVILLE, ESQ.,

ROBT. BATT, ESQ., J.P., D.L.,

JOHN CLARKE, ESQ., J.P.,

THE MAYOR OF BELFAST (F. H. LEWIS, ESQ.),

RIGHT REV. DR. DENVIR,

SIR R. BATESON, BART., D.L.,

R. GORDON, ESQ., J.P., D.L.

The following statement, &c., were read and adopted, in relation to the memorial of Mary Ann M'Sourley :—

M. A. M'Sourley (Roman Catholic), an assistant laundress in this Asylum, having, by various acts of insubordination and insolence, given dissatisfaction to the Resident Physician, Dr. Stewart, and to Mrs. Stewart, Matron, received, on the 13th July last, the customary notice to leave at the end of the following month. Seven days afterwards (viz., on the 7th of August) she presented a memorial to this Board, complaining of injustice, on the ground of such notice to quit, and containing various charges of RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION and malversation on the part of Dr. and Mrs. Stewart. The Board, on hearing an explanation from Dr.

Stewart, considering the nature of the charges themselves, and convinced that the discipline of the Establishment would be destroyed by lending their countenance to frivolous accusations preferred against the chief officers of the Asylum, by insubordinate domestics, deemed it proper to take no further steps upon the complaint of said Mary Anne M'Sourley, but left the case in the hands of Dr. Stewart, to whom they had committed the entire business of engaging and dismissing all the subordinate officers of the Institution.

On the next Board day (September 4th) Dr. Stewart reported, that, on the 31st day of August, Mary Ann M'Sourley had declined to accept her wages and discharge; and she having refused to leave the Asylum, and having threatened legal proceedings against him, he caused her to be removed by a constable. The Board approved of Dr. Stewart's proceedings, as being essential to secure the good order of the establishment; and authorised him, in the event of legal proceedings being taken in the matter, to engage a Solicitor for his defence.

On the following Board day (October 2d) a letter was read from the Inspectors of Asylums (Drs. White and Nugent), enclosing the copy of a memorial to the Lord Lieutenant, from Mary Anne M'Sourley, which had been referred to them (the Inspectors), "with a view to its being brought under the notice of the Board of Governors." The Inspectors further intimated, "that their Excellencies (the Lords Justices, acting in the absence of the Lord Lieutenant) desired to be understood as giving no countenance whatever to charges proceeding from such a quarter, though they thought that they ought not to receive an accusation of this nature against a public officer, without making him aware of it, and thereby affording him the opportunity of making any observations he may think proper."

In her memorial, addressed to the Lord Lieutenant, M. A. M'Sourley not only reiterated all the charges preferred in her memorial to this Board, on the 7th of August, but added several fresh accusations, "and prayed his Excellency to cause a public inquiry to be held, with all convenient despatch, into said charges."

The question having been thus referred to the Board of Governors, by the Lords Justices, in accordance with the prayer of complainant; and Dr. and Mrs. Stewart having urgently solicited the largest and most searching investigations, not merely of all the matters adverted to in the memorial, but likewise into their entire management of the Asylum, during the last twenty years, the Board deemed it their imperative duty to institute a full and rigid inquiry, and to receive, to any extent which the several parties might require, all oral and documentary evidence which might be presented for their consideration. Accordingly, they resolved to hold special meetings for the purpose, by adjournment from time to time, giving all parties due notice of such meetings. These special sittings commenced upon the 3d day of October, and ended on the 6th November last, there having been nine sederunts of the Governors, each beginning at eleven o'clock, A.M., and continuing till four, five, six, or seven o'clock in the evening.

The testimony of every witness was written down, *verbatim*, by Dr. Cooke, the Chairman, and afterwards deliberately read to each deponent, to prevent mistakes or future complaints. The name, also, of each individual who examined or cross-examined is attached to the specific portion of evidence which he or she drew forth; so that, in every respect, the record of proceedings is equally full and distinct.

Six entire days were devoted to the statements and evidence of M'Sourley, the complainant; and three days to the rebutting statements and testimony of Dr. and Mrs. Stewart.



Before entering upon this investigation the Governors anxiously desired that the whole evidence should be given under the solemn sanction of an oath ; but they found that even the several Magistrates on the Board could not, lawfully, administer oaths in such a case. Both parties, however, expressing themselves anxious to try the issue, and neither of them having signified any desire to have the testimony given on oath, the inquiry was prosecuted with the best aid derivable from written documents and oral statements, scrupulously sifted and compared. The Board, therefore, are fully convinced that substantial truth has been elicited ; and their duty now is, on a review of the whole evidence, to deal out substantial justice, so far as their deliberate judgments and resolutions can effect that object.

With respect to Mary Ann M'Sourley's charges on the one hand, and the characters and conduct of Dr. and Mrs. Stewart, on the other, a single hour's inquiry, and a single resolution, would have been quite sufficient ; but the Board cannot conceal the fact, that this prosecution has been fostered, and the case prejudged by parties and influences *extern* to this establishment : for instance, by certain public journals in Belfast and elsewhere ; by certain professional advisers in Belfast ; and by gross and incessant reports, sedulously propagated throughout the community. This Board, therefore, would be wanting in justice and manly integrity if, in order to conciliate parties whose evident, and even admitted, aim, has been to drive from this Asylum two long-tried officers, they should merely pass some vague, general resolutions, condemnatory of the charges preferred by Mary Ann M'Sourley. On the contrary, simple justice, and a due regard for the future peace and well-being of this establishment, equally demand that each of such charges should be separately and fully stated, and the finding of this Court of Governors upon it duly and emphatically pronounced.

The evidence having, this day, been read over, to refresh the memory of all the Governors, and for the special information of some who had not been able to attend during the entire investigation, the Board proceeded to set forth the charges, with their own remarks and finding thereon.

The charges above referred to, amounting to ELEVEN, together with the testimony adduced in support and refutation of them, extend to so great a length, and would involve so much expense in printing, that the Governors do not consider it necessary to do more, at present, than to say, that *every* charge was declared to be entirely unfounded, and most of them unanimously pronounced to be scandalous and malicious.

From a sense of justice, however, to Dr. and Mrs. Stewart, and from a regard for the character of the Institution, in whose efficient management the public takes so deep an interest, the Governors deem it right to publish the following Resolutions, which were passed unanimously after the close of this protracted and painful investigation :—

1st. “That we have deeply sympathised with Dr. and Mrs. Stewart, under the annoyances which they must have experienced preceding and during this inquiry; not so much in relation to the charges themselves, as to the clamour which has been so industriously excited against them.

We freely confess, that we entered upon the inquiry, believing that such deadly charges could not have been so definitely and boldly preferred without, at least, some *plausible* grounds of accusation; and we readily conceived, that, during the long period of twenty years’ service, amidst labours so extensive and complicated, even the most faithful public officers might have occasionally neglected some trifling duties, or might have shewn some irritation of temper, amidst so many annoyances and cares. Having en-

tertained such impressions, we have now the greater satisfaction in offering our hearty congratulations, to Dr. and Mrs. Stewart, that they have not merely rebutted in the most triumphant manner, every accusation preferred against them, but that it has been incidentally evolved in evidence, during the inquiry, that they have uniformly discharged all their laborious duties, even the humblest, with a fidelity so scrupulous, a discretion so admirable, a self-sacrifice so extraordinary, and a generous sympathy with the patients so honourable, as at once to excite our gratified surprise, and to claim the expression of our augmented confidence and warmest approbation.

2d. "That, whilst we admit the propriety of the reference of this matter to this Board, by the Lords Justices, as being the first instance of the kind submitted to the Lord Lieutenant, we respectfully express our hope, that the issue of this investigation will shew that the accusations of dismissed servants ought not to be lightly entertained, inasmuch as such procedure would encourage a system of servile *espionage* in the Asylum, undermine the just authority of the Resident Physician and Matron, and destroy the salutary discipline of the establishment.

(Signed)

"H. COOKE, Chairman."

Dr. Cooke having been moved from the Chair, and Sir Robert Bateson, Bart., being called thereto—

Moved by the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, and seconded by the Right Rev. Dr. Denvir, and resolved unanimously,—

"That our thanks are eminently due, and are hereby heartily tendered, to the Rev. Dr. Cooke, for his conduct as Chairman, during the inquiry just closed ; and, especially, for the great ability which he evinced, and the vast labour which he undertook, in writing down the depositions of the several witnesses, and in afterwards superintending the due



transcribing of the evidence, which he, this day, produced and read for the consideration of this Board."

Moved by the Mayor (F. H. Lewis, Esq.), and seconded by John Clarke, Esq., and resolved unanimously,—

"That the thanks of this Board are eminently due, and are hereby heartily presented, to the Rev. Dr. Montgomery, for his great labour in examining, condensing, and arranging the mass of testimony taken during the investigation, and thus enabling the Board to arrive the more easily and speedily at a satisfactory judgment.

"That Dr. Cooke and Dr. Montgomery be instructed and empowered to have the statements, remarks, findings, and resolutions of the Board, in this case, duly engrossed, and transmitted to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, through the Inspectors of Asylums.

(Signed)

"ROBERT BATESON, Chairman."

The reply of the Lord Lieutenant to the above documents, as transmitted by the Rev. Drs. Cooke and Montgomery, was not received until the 6th of February last, when his Excellency "desired it to be conveyed to the Board of Governors that he had learned, with satisfaction, that Dr. and Mrs. Stewart were fully exonerated from all blame."

BELFAST DISTRICT ASYLUM,  
*March, 1855.*

# APPENDIX.

## GENERAL TABLES OF STATISTICS, &c.

Table XIV.—Shewing the Admissions, Discharges, &c., from each County in the District, during the Year ending 31st March, 1855.

| ADMITTED FROM EACH COUNTY.             |     |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Antrim,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21     | 37       | 58     |
| County of the Town of Carrickfergus,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| Down,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16     | 20       | 36     |
| TOTALS,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 59       | 96     |
| DISCHARGED, &c., TO EACH COUNTY.       |     |     |     |     |     |     |        |          |        |
| Antrim                                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25     | 37       | 62     |
| County of the Town of Carrickfergus,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 2        | 2      |
| Down,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18     | 14       | 32     |
| TOTALS,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43     | 53       | 96     |
| REMAINING IN ASYLUM, 31st MARCH, 1855. |     |     |     |     |     |     |        |          |        |
| Antrim,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 70     | 78       | 148    |
| County of the Town of Carrickfergus,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 4        | 7      |
| Down,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 68     | 53       | 121    |
| TOTALS,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141    | 135      | 276    |

Table XV.—Shewing the Per Centage of Discharges and Deaths, and the Average Per Centage, calculated on the Average Number of Patients, for Thirteen Years, ending 31st March, 1855.

| Years, ending 31st March. | Yearly Average Number. | RECOVERED.    |                | RELIEVED.     |                | DIED.         |                |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
|                           |                        | No. of Cases. | Rate Per Cent. | No. of Cases. | Rate Per Cent. | No. of Cases. | Rate Per Cent. |
| 1843                      | 249·44                 | 90            | 36·08          | 13            | 5·21           | 18            | 7·21           |
| 1844                      | 253·15                 | 69            | 27·25          | 13            | 5·13           | 21            | 8·29           |
| 1845                      | 258·83                 | 68            | 26·36          | 21            | 8·14           | 40            | 15·50          |
| 1846                      | 252·18                 | 61            | 24·19          | 14            | 5·55           | 24            | 9·51           |
| 1847                      | 254·96                 | 60            | 23·58          | 22            | 8·62           | 27            | 10·58          |
| 1848                      | 262·56                 | 81            | 30·85          | 15            | 5·71           | 47            | 17·90          |
| 1849                      | 271·32                 | 69            | 25·43          | 14            | 5·16           | 30            | 11·05          |
| 1850                      | 267·51                 | 50            | 18·68          | 22            | 8·22           | 43            | 16·07          |
| 1851                      | 271·12                 | 81            | 29·87          | 29            | 10·69          | 29            | 10·69          |
| 1852                      | 275·71                 | 62            | 22·48          | 24            | 8·70           | 27            | 9·79           |
| 1853                      | 280·01                 | 67            | 23·92          | 21            | 7·49           | 25            | 8·92           |
| 1854                      | 279·11                 | 47            | 16·83          | 20            | 7·16           | 19            | 6·80           |
| 1855                      | 266·48                 | 36            | 13·50          | 21            | 7·88           | 39            | 14·63          |

Table XVI.—Employment.

|                                              |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Assisting Servants,...                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 10       | 20     |
| Basket-making,                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| Breaking Freestone, &c.,                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10     | 0        | 10     |
| Cultivating the Ground,                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 60     | 0        | 60     |
| Embroidering,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 4        | 4      |
| Gardening Labour,                            | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12     | 0        | 12     |
| Knitting,                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 14       | 16     |
| Making and Repairing Clothing, Bedding, &c., | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 14       | 14     |
| Making and Repairing Shoes,                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| Painting,                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Pumping Water,                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 14     | 0        | 14     |
| Quilting,                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 4        | 4      |
| Smith Work,                                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2      | 0        | 2      |
| Spinning,                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 16       | 16     |
| Sweeping Yards, Carrying Coals,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16     | 0        | 16     |
| Tailoring,                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 0        | 4      |
| Washing in Laundry,                          | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 16       | 16     |
| Weaving, Winding, and Warping,               | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8      | 0        | 8      |
| TOTALS,                                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | 143    | 78       | 221    |

Table XVII.—Forms of Disease of the Total Number of Patients remaining in the Hospital, on 31st March, 1855.

|                                |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Mania,                         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104    | 58       | 162    |
| Do. complicated with Epilepsy, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 9        | 14     |
| Monomania,                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8      | 18       | 26     |
| Melancholia,                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16     | 38       | 54     |
| Congenital Idiocy,             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Dementia,                      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 12       | 19     |
| TOTALS,                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141    | 135      | 276    |

Table XVIII.—Shewing the State of the Cases remaining in the Hospital, 31st March, 1855.

|                                        |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Considered Chronic or Incurable Cases, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 123    | 91       | 214    |
| Probably Curable do.,                  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18     | 44       | 62     |
| TOTALS,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141    | 135      | 276    |

Table XIX.—Shewing the Religious Persuasions of the 276 Patients remaining in the Hospital, on 31st March, 1855.

|                                            |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Covenanter,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| Established Church of England and Ireland, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40     | 37       | 77     |
| Methodists,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 5        | 6      |
| Presbyterians,                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51     | 42       | 93     |
| Roman Catholics,                           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 47     | 51       | 98     |
| Unitarians,                                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| TOTALS,                                    | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141    | 135      | 276    |

Table XX.—Ages of the 276 Patients remaining in the Hospital,  
31st March, 1855.

|                      |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| Under 20 years,      | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 1        | 4      |
| From 20 to 30 years, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 26     | 27       | 53     |
| “ 30 to 40 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 37     | 46       | 83     |
| “ 40 to 50 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 32     | 31       | 63     |
| “ 50 to 60 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23     | 24       | 47     |
| “ 60 to 70 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20     | 5        | 25     |
| “ 70 to 80 “         | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0      | 1        | 1      |
| TOTALS,              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141    | 135      | 276    |

Table XXI.—Shewing the Duration of Residence in the Hospital of the  
276 Patients remaining under Treatment, 31st March, 1855.

|                         |     |     |     |     |     | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|--------|
| From 1 to 2 months,     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 12       | 17     |
| “ 2 to 3 “              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 7        | 14     |
| “ 3 to 6 “              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7      | 9        | 16     |
| “ 6 to 9 “              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 5        | 6      |
| “ 9 months to 1 year,   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 6        | 9      |
| “ 1 year to 18 months,  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11     | 10       | 21     |
| “ 18 months to 2 years, | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 0        | 1      |
| “ 2 years to 4 “        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16     | 20       | 36     |
| “ 4 “ to 6 “            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19     | 13       | 32     |
| “ 6 “ to 10 “           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 19     | 25       | 44     |
| “ 10 “ to 15 “          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17     | 15       | 32     |
| “ 15 “ to 20 “          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15     | 9        | 24     |
| “ 20 “ to 25 “          | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 20     | 4        | 24     |
| TOTALS.                 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 141    | 135      | 276    |

Table XXII.—Shewing the Articles Manufactured and Made by the  
Patients during the Year.

|                                            |                      |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1364 Hanks Linen Yarn.                     | 121 Shirts.          |
| 100 Hanks Thread.                          | 130 Shifts.          |
| 918 Yards Plain Linen.                     | 118 Aprons.          |
| — Yards Twilled do.                        | 86 Petticoats.       |
| — Yards Striped do.                        | 103 Wrappers.        |
| — Yards Twilled Calico.                    | 222 Day Caps.        |
| — Yards Ticken.                            | 118 Handkerchiefs.   |
| — Yards Gingham,                           | 12 Bed Ticks.        |
| — Yards Diaper.                            | 26 Gowns.            |
| — Yards Chequer.                           | 15 Quilts.           |
| 641 Pairs Stockings and Socks.             | 4 Slips.             |
| — Pairs Leather Shoes Soled<br>and Heeled. | 2 Rollers.           |
| 78 Pairs List do.                          | — Rugs.              |
| 66 Pairs Sheets.                           | 21 Pillow Slips.     |
| 63 Men's Coats.                            | 13 Bed Gowns.        |
| 48 Pairs Trowsers.                         | 118 Neckties.        |
| 5 Jackets.                                 | 1 Table Cloth.       |
| 57 Vests.                                  | 49 Quilted Blankets. |



# AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE FOR ONE YEAR, BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1854, TO 31ST MARCH, 1855.

## THE CHARGE.

|                                                                          |       |    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Balance of last Account in favour of the public, ..                      | £57   | 12 | 6  |
| Received from the Lords Commissioners of her Majesty's Treasury, .. .. . | 5,045 | 10 | 10 |
| Received for Vegetables and Fruit sold, ..                               | £58   | 13 | 10 |
| Do. Oats and Wheat sold, ..                                              | 81    | 2  | 8  |
| Do. Potatoes sold, ..                                                    | 16    | 9  | 9  |
| Do. Bones and Rags sold, ..                                              | 9     | 9  | 4  |
| Do. Grazing on New Ground, ..                                            | 15    | 0  | 0  |
| Unclaimed Wages of dismissed Servants, ..                                | 3     | 13 | 6  |
| Do. Refunded, having been overpaid }<br>on Milk, .. .. .                 | 3     | 15 | 11 |
|                                                                          | 188   | 5  | 0  |

Balance in favour of the public, .. .. . £423 7 6

£5,291 8 4

## THE DISCHARGE.

|                                       |        |    |    |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----|----|
| Paid for Provisions, .. .. .          | £2,458 | 16 | 4  |
| Do. Clothing, .. .. .                 | 412    | 16 | 4  |
| Do. Bedding, .. .. .                  | 85     | 3  | 1  |
| Do. Furniture, .. .. .                | 176    | 16 | 8  |
| Do. Fuel and Light, .. .. .           | 380    | 8  | 2  |
| Do. Stationary and Books, .. .. .     | 22     | 10 | 5  |
| Do. Advertising and Printing, .. .. . | 8      | 11 | 6  |
| Do. Medicine, Wine, &c., .. .. .      | 35     | 12 | 8  |
| Do. Repairs and Alterations, .. .. .  | 142    | 1  | 5  |
| Do. Farm and Garden Expenses, .. .. . | 51     | 15 | 0  |
| Do. Insurance, .. .. .                | 19     | 10 | 0  |
| Do. Incidental Expenses, .. .. .      | 101    | 0  | 0  |
| Do. Salaries and Wages, .. .. .       | 877    | 2  | 6  |
| Do. Postage, .. .. .                  | 6      | 17 | 0  |
| Do. Soap, Candles, &c., .. .. .       | 83     | 19 | 8  |
|                                       | £4,868 | 0  | 10 |

Balance on hand, 1st April, 1855, .. .. . 423 7 6

£5,291 8 4

# AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXPENDITURE ON, AND PRODUCE OF, THE LANDS OF THE BELFAST DISTRICT HOSPITAL FOR ONE YEAR,

BEING FROM 1ST APRIL, 1854, TO 31ST MARCH, 1855.

| Dr.                            |    | EXPENDITURE. |           | PRODUCE.                                                                    |           | Cr.        |
|--------------------------------|----|--------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| To Seed Potatoes,              | .. | ..           | £19 6 0   | By 68½ cwt. Potatoes, used in Establishment, valued at 4s. 6d. per cwt., .. | £15 7 1½  |            |
| " Seeds and Plants,            | .. | ..           | 9 10 3    | " 219 cwt. sold at various prices, ..                                       | 16 9 9½   |            |
| " Spades, Shovels, Hooks, &c., | .. | ..           | 2 1 4     | " 75 cwt. Oats, used in Establishment, at 8s. 6d. per cwt., ..              | £31 17 6  | £31 16 11  |
| " Bran, ..                     | .. | ..           | 1 17 0    | " 121 cwt. do., sold at prices from 8s. 6d. to 8s. 10d. per cwt., ..        | 56 13 0   |            |
| " Shoeing Market Horse,        | .. | ..           | 2 2 0     | " 35 cwt. 2 qrs. Wheat, sold from 13s. 1½d. to 13s. 3d. per cwt., ..        | 24 9 8    | 88 10 6    |
| " Rent Charge,                 | .. | ..           | 7 16 0    | " 440 cwt. of Straw, used in Establishment, at 1s. 6d. per cwt., ..         | 33 0 0    |            |
| " Wheel-barrows, &c.,          | .. | ..           | 7 18 0    | " 180 cwt. Hay, used in Establishment, at 2s. 6d. per cwt., ..              | 22 10 0   | 22 10 0    |
| " Repairing Harness,           | .. | ..           | 1 4 5     | " Manure, valued at ..                                                      | ..        | 15 0 0     |
| " Balance,                     | .. | ..           | £51 15 0  | " Vegetables and Fruit sold, ..                                             | £58 13 10 |            |
|                                |    |              | 278 15 11 | " Do. used in Establishment, ..                                             | 40 0 0    | 98 13 10   |
|                                |    |              |           | " Received for Grazing on New Ground, ..                                    | ..        | 15 0 0     |
|                                |    |              |           | " Osiers made into Baskets, ..                                              | ..        | 1 10 0     |
|                                |    |              |           | Total, ..                                                                   | ..        | £330 10 11 |
|                                |    |              |           | " Balance, ..                                                               | ..        | £278 15 11 |